



County of Los Angeles  
**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**

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October 31, 2005

To: Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair  
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen  
Chief Administrative Officer

**MOTION TO SEEK LEGISLATION TO ENSURE THE SUFFICIENT ALLOCATION OF  
SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDS FOR STUDENTS IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
(ITEM NO. 64-C, AGENDA OF NOVEMBER 1, 2005)**

Item No. 64-C on the November 1, 2005 Agenda is a motion by Supervisor Antonovich recommending that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Administrative Office to work with the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) and County Counsel to draft suggested language that would modify the allocation of special education funds in a manner that accurately reflects special education needs for students in Los Angeles County, work with the LACOE and the County Legislative Delegation to seek this legislative solution, and that the Executive Officer send a five-signature letter to the Governor supporting this legislation.

Under current law, special education is administered through Special Education Local Planning Areas (SELPA's). Funding to SELPA's is based on the average daily attendance (ADA) of enrolled students. SELPA's with proportionately higher numbers of high-cost special needs students are eligible for a funding adjustment above the base ADA allocation. The adjustments are calculated by the California Department of Education (CDE) using a "severity service multiplier" based on the number of high-cost, special need students in each SELPA in relation to the state average.

In the analysis of the Governor's FY 2005-06 budget, the Legislative Analyst's Office noted that: "The current adjustments were calculated in 1998 using 1996-97 cost data. Since the factors underlying the profiles change over time, the existing adjustments likely no longer reflect actual SELPA costs." The Legislature instructed the CDE to

contract for a study of the adjustment in FY 2002-03. The study was completed in the fall of 2003; however, because of concerns with the data, the adjustment formula has not been revised. The LAO advised the Chief Administrative Office that while there is general agreement that the current adjustments are out of date, there was no general consensus on how to move forward during the most recent Legislative session. The LAO believes that the adjustments will most likely be an issue for further discussion in the 2006 State Legislative Session.

The LACOE has indicated that all SELPA Directors within Los Angeles County are aware of the funding problems for Special Education in the State of California and would welcome the support of the Board of Supervisors.

The Department of Mental Health understands that some jurisdictions may have special education funding needs that are not adequately addressed by the existing formula and are supportive of the County working with all stakeholders to draft a legislative proposal to modify the existing methodology to accurately meet the needs of students eligible for special education services.

**There is no existing Board policy on this issue. Therefore, a position is a matter for Board determination.**

DEJ:GK  
MAL:JF:VE:MS:hg

c:     Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
          County Counsel  
          Superintendent, Los Angeles County Office of Education  
          Director, Department of Children and Family Services  
          Director, Department of Mental Health